

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

1. (Cancelled)
2. (Currently Amended) The power tool of ~~claim 1~~ claim 41, wherein the power tool is a router.
3. (Cancelled)
4. (Currently Amended) A router comprising:
a base;
a motor housing supported by the base and defining a central axis and an air outlet, the air outlet having portions thereof positioned on each of two opposing sides of the central axis, air passing from the motor housing through the air outlet;
a motor supported by the motor housing; and
a shield connectable to the motor housing in a position to at least partially cover the portions of the air outlet on the two opposing sides of the central axis, the shield, when connected to the motor housing, allowing flow through the air outlet during operation of the router;

The router of ~~claim 3~~, wherein the motor housing includes a plurality of housing blades spaced apart from one another to define openings therebetween, the openings at least partially defining the air outlet, and wherein the shield is positionable to at least partially cover at least one of the openings.
5. (Previously Presented) The router of claim 4, wherein the shield includes a plurality of shield blades spaced apart from one another to define openings therebetween, the shield blades being offset from the housing blades to at least partially cover the openings between the housing blades.

6. (Currently Amended) The router of ~~claim 3~~ claim 4, wherein the ~~motor housing~~ includes a plurality of housing blades are spaced apart from one another at a first distance to define the openings therebetween, ~~the openings at least partially defining the air outlet,~~ and wherein the shield includes a plurality of shield blades spaced apart from one another at a second distance to define openings therebetween, the second distance being smaller than the first distance.

7. (Original) The router of claim 6, wherein the second distance is less than or equal to about half of the first distance.

8. (Currently Amended) The router of ~~claim 3~~ claim 4, wherein the ~~housing includes a plurality of housing blades spaced apart from one another to define openings defined by the spaced apart housing blades~~ are housing openings therebetween, ~~the housing openings at least partially defining the air outlet,~~ and wherein the shield includes a plurality of shield blades spaced apart from one another to define shield openings therebetween.

9. (Previously Presented) The router of claim 8, wherein the housing openings have a first radial width measured between adjacent edges of two adjacent housing blades at a radial distance from the central axis of the motor housing, and wherein the shield is connectable to the motor housing such that a second radial width is measured between one of the adjacent edges of one of the housing blades and an edge of one of the shield blades at the radial distance, the second radial width being less than the first radial width.

10. (Previously Presented) The router of claim 9, wherein the second radial width is about half of the first radial width.

11. (Previously Presented) The router of claim 9, wherein the first radial width is about 0.3 inches and the second radial width is about 0.15 inches.

12. (Currently Amended) The router of ~~claim 3~~ claim 4, ~~wherein the motor housing includes a plurality of housing blades spaced apart from one another to define openings therebetween, the openings at least partially defining the air outlet, and wherein the shield includes a plurality of shield blades spaced apart from one another to define openings therebetween, the shield being connected to the motor housing to at least partially cover each of the openings of the motor housing with at least one of the plurality of shield blades.~~

13. (Currently Amended) The router of ~~claim 3~~ claim 4, wherein ~~the motor housing includes a plurality of housing blades spaced apart from one another to define openings therebetween, the openings at least partially defining the air outlet,~~ the plurality of housing blades ~~being~~ are operable to direct air along a path, and wherein the shield includes a plurality of shield blades spaced apart from one another to define openings therebetween, the plurality of shield blades being oriented to direct air substantially along the path.

14. (Currently Amended) A router comprising:
a base;
a motor housing supported by the base and defining a central axis and an air outlet, the air outlet having portions thereof positioned on each of two opposing sides of the central axis, air passing from the motor housing through the air outlet;
a motor supported by the motor housing; and
a shield connectable to the motor housing in a position to at least partially cover the portions of the air outlet on the two opposing sides of the central axis, the shield, when connected to the motor housing, allowing flow through the air outlet during operation of the router;

~~The router of claim 3, wherein the shield includes a plurality of radially extending shield blades spaced apart from one another to define openings therebetween.~~

15. (Previously Presented) The router of claim 14, wherein the plurality of radially extending shield blades are oriented to direct air passing through the air outlet and the openings along a desired path.

16. (Previously Presented) The router of claim 14, wherein the plurality of radially extending shield blades have a thickness of about 0.05 inches.

17. (Currently Amended) The router of ~~claim 3~~ claim 4, wherein the motor includes a motor shaft, and wherein the motor housing includes a body; and a bearing support, ~~and a~~ the plurality of housing blades extending between the body and the bearing support and supporting the bearing support relative to the body, ~~the housing blades being spaced apart from one another to define openings therebetween, the openings at least partially defining the air outlet, and~~ wherein the bearing support supports a bearing for the motor shaft.

18. (Currently Amended) The router of ~~claim 3~~ claim 4, wherein the shield is substantially circular.

19. (Currently Amended) The router of ~~claim 3~~ claim 4, wherein the shield is made of plastic.

20. (Currently Amended) The router of ~~claim 3~~ claim 4, wherein the shield is made of nylon.

21. (Currently Amended) A router comprising:
a base;
a motor housing supported by the base and defining a central axis and an air outlet, the air outlet having portions thereof positioned on each of two opposing sides of the central axis, air passing from the motor housing through the air outlet;
a motor supported by the motor housing; and
a shield connectable to the motor housing in a position to at least partially cover the portions of the air outlet on the two opposing sides of the central axis, the shield, when connected to the motor housing, allowing flow through the air outlet during operation of the router;

~~The router of claim 3~~, wherein the router has an upright orientation, in which the base is supported above a workpiece and the shield is below the air outlet, and an inverted orientation, in which the base is below a workpiece and the shield is above the air outlet, the shield being operable to inhibit movement of debris through the air outlet and into the motor housing when the router is in the inverted orientation.

Claims 22-40 (Cancelled)

41. (Currently Amended) A power tool comprising:
a motor;
a motor housing supporting the motor and defining an air outlet and an air flow path from the motor housing through the air outlet; and
a shield removably connectable to the motor housing, the shield being positionable at least partially outside the motor housing and to at least partially cover the air outlet;

~~The power tool of claim 1~~, wherein the motor housing includes a plurality of housing blades spaced apart from one another to define openings therebetween, the openings at least partially defining the air outlet, and wherein the shield is positionable to at least partially cover at least one of the openings.

42. (Previously Presented) The power tool of claim 41, wherein the shield includes a plurality of shield blades spaced apart from one another to define openings therebetween, the shield blades being offset from the housing blades to at least partially cover the openings between the housing blades.

43. (Currently Amended) The power tool of ~~claim 1~~ claim 41, wherein the ~~motor housing includes~~ a plurality of housing blades are spaced apart from one another at a first distance to define the openings therebetween, ~~the openings at least partially defining the air outlet,~~ and wherein the shield includes a plurality of shield blades spaced apart from one another at a second distance to define openings therebetween, the second distance being smaller than the first distance.

44. (Previously Presented) The power tool of claim 43, wherein the second distance is less than or equal to about half of the first distance.

45. (Currently Amended) The power tool of ~~claim 1~~ claim 41, wherein the ~~housing includes a plurality of housing blades spaced apart from one another to define~~ openings defined by the spaced apart plurality of housing blades are housing openings ~~therebetween, the housing openings at least partially defining the air outlet,~~ and wherein the shield includes a plurality of shield blades spaced apart from one another to define shield openings therebetween.

46. (Previously Presented) The power tool of claim 45, wherein the housing openings have a first radial width measured between adjacent edges of two adjacent housing blades at a radial distance from the central axis of the motor housing, and wherein the shield is connectable to the motor housing such that a second radial width is measured between one of the adjacent edges of one of the housing blades and an edge of one of the shield blades at the radial distance, the second radial width being less than the first radial width.

47. (Previously Presented) The power tool of claim 46, wherein the second radial width is about half of the first radial width.

48. (Previously Presented) The power tool of claim 46, wherein the first radial width is about 0.3 inches and the second radial width is about 0.15 inches.

49. (Currently Amended) The power tool of claim 1, ~~wherein the motor housing includes a plurality of housing blades spaced apart from one another to define openings therebetween, the openings at least partially defining the air outlet, and~~ wherein the shield includes a plurality of shield blades spaced apart from one another to define openings therebetween, the shield being connected to the motor housing to at least partially cover each of the openings of the motor housing with at least one of the plurality of shield blades.

50. (Currently Amended) The power tool of claim 1, wherein ~~the motor housing includes a plurality of housing blades spaced apart from one another to define openings therebetween, the openings at least partially defining the air outlet,~~ the plurality of housing blades being are operable to direct air along a path, and wherein the shield includes a plurality of shield blades spaced apart from one another to define openings therebetween, the plurality of shield blades being oriented to direct air substantially along the path.

51. (Currently Amended) A power tool comprising:
a motor;
a motor housing supporting the motor and defining an air outlet and an air flow path from the motor housing through the air outlet; and
a shield removably connectable to the motor housing, the shield being positionable at least partially outside the motor housing and to at least partially cover the air outlet;

~~The power tool of claim 1,~~ wherein the shield includes a plurality of radially extending shield blades spaced apart from one another to define openings therebetween.

52. (Previously Presented) The power tool of claim 51, wherein the plurality of radially extending shield blades are oriented to direct air passing through the air outlet and the openings along a desired path.

53. (Previously Presented) The power tool of claim 51, wherein the plurality of radially extending shield blades have a thickness of about 0.05 inches.

54. (Currently Amended) The power tool of claim 1, wherein the motor includes a motor shaft, and wherein the motor housing includes a body; and a bearing support, ~~and a the~~ plurality of housing blades extending between the body and the bearing support and supporting the bearing support relative to the body, ~~the housing blades being spaced apart from one another to define openings therebetween, the openings at least partially defining the air outlet, and~~ wherein the bearing support supports a bearing for the motor shaft.

55. (Currently Amended) The power tool of ~~claim 1~~ claim 41, wherein the shield is substantially circular.

56. (Currently Amended) A power tool comprising:
a motor;
a motor housing supporting the motor and defining an air outlet and an air flow path from the motor housing through the air outlet; and
a shield removably connectable to the motor housing, the shield being positionable at least partially outside the motor housing and to at least partially cover the air outlet;

~~The power tool of claim 1~~, wherein the router has an upright orientation, in which the base is supported above a workpiece and the shield is below the air outlet, and an inverted orientation, in which the base is below a workpiece and the shield is above the air outlet, the shield being operable to inhibit movement of debris through the air outlet and into the motor housing when the router is in the inverted orientation.

57. (Currently Amended) The power tool of ~~claim 1~~ claim 41, wherein the shield includes a plurality of blades spaced apart from one another to define openings therebetween.

58. (Previously Presented) A power tool comprising:

- a motor;
- a motor housing supporting the motor and defining an air outlet and an air flow path from the motor housing through the air outlet;
- a shield removably connectable to the motor housing and positionable to at least partially cover the air outlet;
- a base, the motor housing being supported by the base and being movable relative to the base, at least one of the base and the motor housing defining a depth adjustment column having an open end, the motor being operable to drive a tool element;
- a depth adjustment mechanism supported in the depth adjustment column and being operable to adjust the cutting depth of the tool element, and
- a flexible shield connectable to the base in a position to cover the open end and to allow access to the depth adjustment mechanism through the open end.

59. (Currently Amended) The power tool of ~~claim 1~~ claim 41, wherein the power tool further comprises

- a base, the motor housing being supported by the base and the central axis of the motor housing being generally vertical, and
- a handle connected to at least one of the base and the motor housing, the handle defining a handle axis and having a grip portion extending generally along the handle axis, the handle axis being non-parallel to the central axis.